

DE-LUSH-US

It is extremely rare to find a budding band being consistently lauded by the British press.

Artists simply don't receive long lasting critical acclaim for doing nothing but gigs. LUSH are the exception to the rule.

Singer Miki, guitarist Emma, bassist Steve and drummer Chris have been the subtle flavour of the past 11 months, the media's golden boys and girls, illiciting four rave live reviews from the *NME*. This situation has brought its (un)fair share of problems.

Regional dates with the House Of Love took them away from the London leers and earned enthusiastic responses, but by the middle of July, even critics found themselves trying to justify space. Pens itched at the mention of a backlush. And then, Lush did something. They signed with 4AD. And next week they're going to do something else by actually releasing a record. Break my stride.

'Scar' is a six-track mini LP, because "it's different", it's "better value than 12" singles", (£3.99 for half a dozen songs) and also because, according to Emma, "Pale Saints put out a 12" and 4AD want to differentiate between us and them, they don't want to lump us together." Fair enough.

From the pastel pink CD to the lushly indulgent packaging, 'Scar' is a work



PICTURE: TIM PATON

"... Lush For Life ..."

of art.

"The songs came one by one," says Steve, "there wasn't any plan."

"Yeah, we've never said, 'Oh, that song's good but it doesn't fit in with the band'," helps Miki. "It was

quite experimental in the studio, it developed."

The one thing Lush will stomp their collective foot about is the parallels drawn wildly between themselves, My Bloody Valentine and Throwing Muses.

"We're completely derivative in the sense that there's nothing in our music that hasn't been done before," admits Steve, "but ours is a different combination of familiar elements, that's all."

Absolutely. Few other bands can blend melody and malevolence so flawlessly. Few would even consider it. And remember that 'Scar' is only the beginning — the potential is staggering.

Simon Williams

TURN ONs

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|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 HUP..... | The Wonder Stuff (Polydor) |
| 2 TOO MUCH KISSING..... | The Senseless Things (Way Cool) |
| 3 AFTER THE LOVE..... | Jesus Loves You (More Protein) |
| 4 SCAR..... | Lush (4AD) |
| 5 STANDING THERE..... | The Creatures (Polydor) |
| 6 WHY IS IT A CRIME?..... | Slide (Phonogram) |
| 7 BLESS THE FUNK..... | Double J (4th & Broadway) |
| 8 SIGHT OF YOU..... | Pale Saints (4AD) |
| 9 I WANT THAT MAN..... | Debbie Harry (Chrysalis) |
| 10 CHELSEA GIRL..... | Ride (Jerico) |

What's going ON the *NME* stereo